

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /115 W  
----- 002763

R 081533Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04407

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N. I.)

SUBJECT: POST-ELECTION DEBATE ON SUNNINGDALE STILL  
UNFINISHED

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY THIRD SESSION OF DEBATE ON SUNNINGDALE  
APRIL 2 ENDED WITHOUT VOTE. DUE BUSINESS BEFORE  
ASSEMBLY, POST-EASTER-RECESS SESSION ON APRIL 30 SEEMS  
MOST LIKELY TIME FOR VOTE TO BE TAKEN. LOYALISTS ARE  
EXULTANT, AND PRO-SUNNINGDALERS ARE DISMAYED (ALSO  
ANGRY AT SPEAKER FOR NOT ALLOWING VOTE) THAT POST-  
FEBRUARY 28-VOTE UNCERTAINTIES MUST CONTINUE. TIME-  
FRAME FOR RATIFICATION OF SUNNINGDALE NOT MATERIALLY

AFFECTED BY APRIL 2 RESULT. PRO-ASSEMBLY PARTIES OF NCPW  
RATIFY WITHOUT EXTRADITION, AT LEAST FOR MOST-SERIOUS  
CRIMES, YET PROSPECTS ON DUBLIN'S DELIVERING ON THAT  
SCORE SEEM NIL. ALLIANCE LEADER OLIVER NAPIER HOPES  
DEAL WHEREBY PRO-ASSEMBLY UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE GIVE ON  
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EXTRADITION AND SDLP AND DUBLIN, ON COUNCIL OF IRELAND

CAN BE WORKED OUT "AFTER SUMMER." END SUMMARY

1. APRIL 2'S THIRD SESSION OF DEBATE ON SUNNINGDALE WAS REMARKABLE ONLY FOR ITS FAILINRRQO COME TO VOTE. PARTY WHIPS UD SPEAKER MINFORD HAD AGREED THERE WOULD BE VOTE AT 6P.M. BUT GERRY FITT'S SUMMATION FOR PRO-SUNNINGDALERS CARRIED ON TO 5:45 (DUE IN PART TO INORDINATE LENGTH AND IN PART TO CONSTANT BARRACKING, INTERRUPTIONS AND POINTS OF ORDER). LOYALISTS (READ PAISLEY) THEN PRMPESTED THAT TIME FOR THEIR SUMMATION (BY VANGUARD'S BAIRD) WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT AND INADEQUATE. TO SJTPRISE OF PRACTICALLY EVERYONE, MINFORD REFUSED TO HEAR MOTION THAT QUESTIONBE PUT, AND DECLARED HOUSE ADJOURNED. SINCE SESSION FOR APRIL 3 AND 4 ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, EFFECT OF MINFORD'S RULING, BARRING MAKING OF SOME SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, WILL BE TO DEFER VOTE ON SUNNINGDALE TO APRIL 30, I.E. AFTER EASTER RECESS.

2. LOYALISTS WERE NATURALLY EXULTANT NOT ONLY OVER THEIR "VICTORY", BUT ALSO OVER FACT THAT UNCERTAINTY CREATED BY FEBRUARY 28 VOTE ABOUT SUNNINGDALE MUST NOW CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER MONTH. PRO-ASSEMBLY PARTIES, ON OTHER HAND, WERE ENRAGED, AS THEY HOPED TO RESTORE MOMENTUM TO THEIR CAUSE BY W X OVECWANTI-SUNNINGDALERS ON THE VOTE. GERRY FITT TOLD CONGEN AFTERWARD IT WAS SIMPLY CASE OF MINFORD'S BEING AFRAID OF PAISLEY. (IT DOES SEEM THAT MINFORD WOULD HAVE HAD LITTLE DIFF ZCULTY AND MUCH SUPPORT FOR RULING FOR THE VOTE ON GROUND THAT SHORTAGE OF TIME FOR LOYALISTS' SUMMATION HAD RESULTED PRINCIPALLY FROM THEIR DEBATE TACTICS OF HECKLING AND INTERRUPTING.)

3. ALLIANCE'S OLIVER NAPIER WAS EQUALLY APPALLED BY MINFORD'S DECISION TO AVOID VOTE, BUT NOTED THAT

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R 081533Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9417

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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PROGRESS ON SUNNINGDALE RATIFICATION WOULD NOT BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED ANYWAY. IN HIS VIEW, PRO-ASSEMBLY UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE COULD NOT POSSIBLY RATIFY SUNNINGDALE AT PRESENT TIME WITHOUT EXTRADITION AT LEAST FOR MURDER, CAUSING EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER MOST-SERIOUS OFFENSES, BUT SOUTH CANNOT OR WILL NOT DELIVER. HE TOLD CONGEN THAT HE EXPECTS THAT "AFTER SUMMER" THERE WILL BE TRADE OFF OF NE PLUS ULTRAS: PRO-ASSEMBLY UNIONISTS AND ALLIANCE TO GIVE ON EXTRADITION, SDLP (AND DUBLIN) TO GIVE ON COUNCIL OF IRELAND (HE DIDN'T SPECIFY ON DEGREE OF GIVE, I.E. ELIMINATION FROM SUNNINGDALE PACKAGE ALTOGETHER OR PARING DOWN OF ITS STRUCTURE AND/OR POWERS). HE IS ALSO HOPEFUL THAT IF THIS TRADE OFF COULD BE WORKED OUT, SOME OF LOYALISTS, NOTABLY FOLLOWERS OF WEST (AS OPPOSED TO FOLLOWERS OF CRAIG AND PAISLEY), WOULD BE WILLING PUBLICLY TO SUPPORT CONSTITUTION ACT AND GO INTO LOYAL OPPOSITION IN ASSEMBLY. IF THIS SHOULD TRANSPIRE, HE THOUGHT SECRETARY OF STATE REES' RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT NO ELECTIONS FOR FULL FOUR-YEAR TERM OF PRESENT ASSEMBLY

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WOULD NOT INTERPOSE INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER TO NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. ACCORDING PRO-ASSEMBLY UNIONIST EXECUTIVE MEMBER BASIL MCIVOR, SOME OF LOYALIST BACKBENCHERS OF WEST STRIKE HAVE BEEN TALKING WITH ALLIANCE, SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO "SAVE THEMSELVES." WEST BELFAST'S LOYALIST ASSEMBLYMAN HUGH SMYTH HAS ALREADY HINTED PUBLICLY THAT, IF HIS CONSTITUENTS WANTED HIM TO ENGAGE IN ASSEMBLY WORK (AND OTHER CONSTITUENCY CHORES), HE WOULD DO SO.

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